



ST. MARY’S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

St. Mary's County is located along the shores of the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, stretching southward to the Chesapeake Bay. The shoreline, 400 miles of waterways, is indented with hundreds of small bays, creeks, rivers and streams. Much of this land has remained farmland, and still retains much of the untouched charm the settlers found over 300 years ago.

In the farm area, tobacco is the leading product produced totaling 3.9 million pounds. Maryland tobacco, Type 32, is used in cigarettes both in the United States and abroad. Corn and soybeans are also extensively grown.

Although tobacco farming provides a lot of the atmosphere and much of the income of this county, it is a modern, progressive area with many resources and industries; factories, seafood, resorts, Patuxent Naval Base, to name a few.

St. Mary's County, with its close and convenient access to Washington, Baltimore, and Richmond, has become one of the fastest growing areas in the State.

ST. MARY’S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

| Crop | Year | Unit | Acreage Harvested | Average Yield | Total Production |
|-----------------|------|-------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Corn for Grain | 1997 | Bu. | 7,700 | 105.2 | 810,000 |
| | 1998 | | 8,200 | 82.8 | 678,600 |
| | 1999 | | 6,900 | 72.0 | 496,800 |
| Corn for Silage | 1997 | Tons. | * | * | * |
| | 1998 | | * | * | * |
| | 1999 | | * | * | * |
| Soybeans | 1997 | Bu. | 16,000 | 30.4 | 486,600 |
| | 1998 | | 11,000 | 18.0 | 198,000 |
| | 1999 | | 13,200 | 16.7 | 220,600 |
| Wheat | 1997 | Bu. | 7,000 | 61.0 | 427,000 |
| | 1998 | | 5,400 | 41.7 | 225,000 |
| | 1999 | | 5,700 | 54.3 | 309,300 |
| Hay | 1997 | Tons. | 4,800 | 2.4 | 11,400 |
| | 1998 | | 6,300 | 1.3 | 8,500 |
| | 1999 | | 7,000 | 2.5 | 17,400 |
| Barley | 1997 | Bu. | 1,400 | 77.8 | 107,000 |
| | 1998 | | 900 | 70.0 | 63,000 |
| | 1999 | | 1,100 | 83.0 | 91,300 |
| Tobacco | 1997 | Lbs. | 3,200 | 1,725.3 | 5,521,000 |
| | 1998 | | 2,600 | 1,494.7 | 3,886,300 |
| | 1999 | | 2,600 | 1,485.0 | 3,855,000 |

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999

| | | | |
|---------|----|----------|----|
| Corn | 15 | Oats | 3 |
| Wheat | 14 | Barley | 4 |
| Hay | 8 | Soybeans | 14 |
| Tobacco | 1 | | |

Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Cattle | 12 |
| Hogs | 2 |
| Sheep | 15 |
| Milk Production | 3 |

ST. MARY’S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

| Farm Numbers & Size ¹ | | 1987 | 1992 | 1997 |
|----------------------------------|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of Farms | | 754 | 673 | 621 |
| Average Size (acres) | | 107 | 115 | 116 |
| Land in Farms (acres) | | 80,493 | 77,491 | 71,890 |

| Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹ | | 1987 | 1992 | 1997 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Cattle Inventory | Jan. 1 | 4,917 | 4,596 | 5,372 |
| Hog Inventory | Dec. 1 | 17,542 | 18,042 | 9,733 |
| Sheep Inventory | Jan. 1 | 314 | 194 | 325 |

| Value of Sales ¹ | | 1987 | 1992 | 1997 |
|-----------------------------|--|------|------|------|
|-----------------------------|--|------|------|------|

----- Thousand Dollars

| | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| All Products | 13,271 | 16,349 | 21,056 |
| Crops | 7,876 | 11,656 | 17,549 |
| Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products | 5,396 | 4,692 | 3,506 |

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.
² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
³ Unranked - Data not published.
⁴ Revised.
* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

| MONTH | AVERAGE TEMP. (F) | NORMAL 1961-1990 | TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES) | NORMAL 1961-1990 |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| January | 39.0 | 33.3 | 5.20 | 3.46 |
| February | 39.4 | 36.3 | 2.20 | 3.38 |
| March | 43.7 | 45.7 | 4.82 | 3.97 |
| April | 55.7 | 54.4 | 3.17 | 3.41 |
| May | 63.9 | 63.9 | 0.63 | 4.12 |
| June | 71.6 | 71.9 | 2.23 | 4.06 |
| July | 78.8 | 76.2 | 2.21 | 4.22 |
| August | 75.8 | 74.6 | 6.61 | 4.06 |
| September | 67.9 | 67.9 | 11.75 | 3.75 |
| October | 55.2 | 56.8 | 3.50 | 3.43 |
| November | 52.3 | 47.6 | 1.45 | 3.51 |
| December | 40.8 | 38.2 | 2.25 | 3.34 |
| Annual | 57.0 | 55.6 | 46.02 | 42.27 |

** Insufficient or partial data.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Number frost free days for 1999 | 212 |
| Normal frost free days 1951-1980 | 202 <i>(1961-1990 Not available)</i> |
| Highest temperature 07-31-99 | 97 |
| Lowest temperature 01-06-99 | 7 |

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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
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